



CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

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Inspiring and Empowering Learners to Achieve a Lifetime of Success

Ronald Roberts
Superintendent

January 5, 2017

MACUL
520 S. Creyts Rd
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear MACUL Award Committee,

I am writing to nominate Craig McBain for the 2017 MACUL Digital Leader Award. As Director of Technology for the last 10 years Craig has been an instrumental leader in keeping Chippewa Valley Schools current with modern technology standards.

As Director of Technology in one of Michigan's largest school districts Craig McBain has overseen large-scale technology implementation, including installation and training. A bond passed in 2010 allowed for classroom updates throughout the 22 building district. Mr. McBain oversaw the design and roll out of over 880 21st Century Classroom outfits. This package included an interactive whiteboard, classroom audio, document camera and Blu-ray player in each K-12 classroom throughout the district. Not only did Mr. McBain oversee the installation, he also organized training for teachers to implement this technology effectively. The innovative Pioneer model allowed some teachers to train and test the technology, later serving as trainers for their colleagues.

In addition to the most recent bond purchases Mr. McBain has also overseen the implementation of Office 365, Safari Montage, Foxbright web editor, and other district-wide programs throughout his time as Director of Technology.

Another forward-thinking move under the direction of Mr. McBain has been the implementation of virtual student desktops. Virtual desktops not only save the district money by extending the life of computers, they allow for better service because updates can be managed centrally in an overnight process. In a district of over 16,000 computers virtual desktops, students and staff are served more efficiently when new software or updates are released.

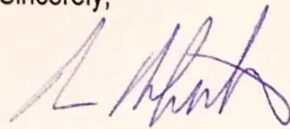
In addition to his project management and leadership skills, what truly makes Craig McBain stand out among technology leaders is his background in education. With over 15 years of classroom experience, this paradigm shapes every decision he makes. Technology is viewed as a support for teaching and curriculum. All technology decisions made focus solely on this point. Whether it is choosing which hardware and programs are to be adopted or planning training opportunities for

teachers, what is best for students and teachers is always at the heart of the decision making process. This blend of education and technology backgrounds has benefitted our school district by ensuring that technology decisions are grounded in best education practices.

The process of implementing of technology in a school district can be at best transformative and, at worst, very frustrating. Much depends on the aptitude and attitude of the end-user. Craig understands that those he serves possess a variety of skills and attitudes related to technology. Regardless, Craig works tirelessly to treat those whom he serves with a sense of dignity, supporting all to grow in technological competencies; all the while, keeping learning fun.

Craig, through leadership and a passion for student learning, has had a profound impact on the Chippewa Valley Schools and is deserving of the 2017 MACUL Digital Leader Award.

Sincerely,



Ron Roberts
Superintendent
Chippewa Valley Schools

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